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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/563,377	04/27/2006	Peter Hubert Windmuller	4662-129	4401

23117 7590 02/08/2007
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC
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EXAMINER

LU, C CAIXIA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1713

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/08/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/563,377

Applicant(s)

WINDMULLER ET AL.

Examiner

Caixia Lu

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,3 and 5-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/18/06.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, wherein the elected metallocene catalyst complex is η^5 -(cyclopentadienyl) 1,3-bis(2,6-dimethylphenyl)-iminoimidazoline titanium dimethyl, claims 1 and 4, in the reply filed on January 11, 2007 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In line 10 of page 5 of claim 1, the symbol "Y" lacks antecedence. Should "Y" be "Y' "?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kretschmer et al. (Chemical Communications, (6), 608-609, 2002) in view of Gillis et al. (WO 97/38019).

The instant claims are directed to a process for preparation of ethylene/ α -olefin/vinyl norbornene in the presence of catalyst composition comprising an iminoimidazoline ligand containing Group IVB metallocene catalyst and an alumoxane cocatalyst.

Kretschmer teaches a high activity catalyst composition for ethylene polymerization comprising an iminoimidazoline ligand containing Group IVB metallocene catalyst and borate/alumoxane cocatalyst (page 608, left col., 3rd paragraph; and page 609, left col., Table 2). It is understood that the partially hydrolyzed tris(isobutyl)aluminum (TIBAO) is also referred as isobutyl alumoxane. It is noted when both triperfluorophenylborate and isobutyl alumoxane are used in the ethylene polymerization, the catalyst activity is doubled by comparing the catalyst with Ligand B in Kretschmer's Tables 1 and 2. Apparently, the data indicates that isobutyl alumoxane functions more as a cocatalyst than a scavenger since a scavenger should not have much influence towards the catalyst activity.

While Kretschmer does not expressly teach the preparation of ethylene/ α -olefin/vinyl norbornene terpolymer, preparation of ethylene/ α -olefin/vinyl norbornene terpolymer in the presence of a metallocene catalyst is well established in industry, and such is shown in Gillis (page 2, lines 5-6 and 27-28; and abstract).

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Thus, it would have been obvious to a skilled artisan at the time the invention was made to employ Kretschmer's teaching to copolymerize ethylene, α -olefin, vinyl norbornene in searching for a more effective catalyst and thus lower the cost for ethylene/ α -olefin/vinyl norbornene elastomer production in industry and in the absence of any showing criticality and unexpected results.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Caixia Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-1106. The examiner can normally be reached from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful and the matter is urgent, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu, can be reached at (571) 272-1114. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1700.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caixia Lu'.

Caixia Lu, Ph. D.
Primary Examiner